

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01064 290840Z

12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 290800Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2427
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T MUSCAT 1064

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS PFOR XF
SUBJECT: GULF STATES--US MILITARY RELATIONSHIP

REF: DOHA 863

1. SEEN FROM MUSCAT, IT WOULD APPEAR DISADVANTAGEOUS TO SET
UP A HARD AND FAST POLICY OF COORDINATING WITH IRAN AND SAUDI
ARABIA EACH ARMS REQUEST FROM STATES IN THE GULF, EVEN VIS-

A-VIS BAHRAIN, QATAR AND THE UAE. WE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE PRE-
PARED IN EACH INSTANCE TO ABIDE BY THEIR ADVICE (AND THERE
MIGHT WELL BE CONFLICTING ADVICE AT TIMES), SO WE MIGHT BE PUT
IN POSITION OF EITHER STALLING SO AS TO AVOID A DECISION OR
PROCEEDING OVER EXPRESSED OBJECTIONS. WE DO, HOWEVER, SEE AD-
VANTAGE IN EMBASSY ABU DHABI SUGGESTION OF OCCASIONAL BRIEFING
OF IRANIANS AND SAUDIS AS TO REASONS WHY WE ARE DOING THIS OR
THAT IN RESPONSE TO A CERTAIN ARMS REQUEST. THIS WOULD PROMOTE
OUR "TWO PILLAR" POLICY AND REMIND ALL CONCERNED THAT, JUST AS
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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 01064 290840Z

WE LOOK AT THESE THINGS IN REGIONAL CONTEXT, SO SHOULD THEY.

2. ESSENTIALLY, WE BELIEVE THE TRIO OF SMALLER GULF STATES ABOVE, AND ALSO OMAN, EXPECT (AS THEY HAVE RIGHT TO DO, ESPECIALLY SINCE USG MOVED INTO GULF ON RESIDENT EMBASSY BASIS IN 1974) THAT USG WILL DEAL WITH THEIR REQUESTS, BE THEY MILITARY OR OTHERWISE, IN AN ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL MANNER AND WILL GIVE OUR OWN HONEST RESPONSE RATHER THAN ROUTINELY PUTTING THEM THROUGH THE WRINGER IN RIYADH AND TEHRAN.
WOLLE

SECRET

NNN

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